

Appl. No. : 10/519,339
Int'l Filing Date : August 15, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Support can be found on page 12, lines 20-25 and page 13 line 22 through page 14 line 2, for example. Claims 9-23 have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention.

No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Affirmation of Restriction Requirement

A provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, Claims 1-8. Applicant affirms this election, and claims 9-23 have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kanno et al (US 5,458,967).

Claim 1 is independent and has been amended. Claim 1 now recites:

A conductive resin film constituted by laminated layers comprising:
a conductive substrate layer; and
a low-resistance layer with a volume resistance of 0.1 to 1.0 Ωcm in a thickness direction as at least one of its outermost layer;
each layer of the laminated layers being made of a resin and a conductive agent.

In contrast, in Kanno, the low-resistance layer is **a metal foil**, preferably an aluminum foil (column 1, lines 57-63). Kanno gives no indication that each layer is made of a resin and a conductive agent. Since each and every element recited in Claim 1 as amended is not found in Kanno, Claim 1 cannot be anticipated by Kanno.

Additionally, as described above, in claim 1, all the layers are based on resin layers. For that reason, the conductive resin film can provides a good conductivity and acid resistance (page 4, lines 12-14). Good acid resistance is achieved by including a conductive agent in a resin of the low-resistance layer. Having a metal foil on the hot melt resin layer as described in Kanno would not achieve the above results. Further, due to the metal substrate in Kanno, the sheet of Kanno can by no means be used as a collector used in an electric double layer capacitor, for example.

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Thus, the teaching of Kanno cannot lead to claim 1. At least for the above reasons, claim 1 cannot be obvious over Kanno.

Claims 2-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kanno et al (US 5,458,967).

As discussed above, claim 1 cannot be anticipated by or obvious over Kanno. Claims 2-5 are dependent upon claim 1, and thus at least for this reason, these claims cannot be anticipated by or obvious over Kanno.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kanno et al (US 5,458,967).

As described above, claim 1 cannot be anticipated by or obvious over Kanno. Claim 6 is a method of producing the conductive resin film set forth in claim 1, and thus at least for this reason, claim 6 also cannot be anticipated by or obvious over Kanno. Further, Kanno fails to disclose the step of applying a liquid composition of a fine carbon fiber and a thermoplastic resin in a solvent to a flat surface of a support. In Kanno, a conductive layer is formed on an aluminum foil (low-resistance layer) and not on a support as recited in claim 6. Thus, claim 6 cannot be anticipated by or obvious over Kanno. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kanno et al in view of Takeru et al (US 6,641,933).

The reference number of US 6,641,933 leads to an unrelated patent. Applicant believes that the reference number US 6,641,933 was incorrectly cited in the Office action and the correct reference number is JP-A-11-144737 as shown in the IDS.

As discussed above, Kanno gives no indication that the laminated layers are each made of a resin and a conductive agent. In Takeru, main body 2 is metal foil coated with coating film 3 (paragraph 0018). Therefore, neither Kanno nor Takeru teaches that a conductive resin film is constituted by laminated resin-based layers. Due to the metal substrates in Kanno and Takeru, the sheets of Kanno and Takeru can by no means be used as a collector used in an electric double layer capacitor. Thus, the teaching of Kanno and Takeru cannot lead to claims 7 and 8. Additionally, claims 7-8 are dependent directly or indirectly upon claim 1. Thus at least for the

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above reasons, claims 7-8 cannot be obvious over the references. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In light of the Applicant's amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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